

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on November 23, 2005.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, and 21 are amended, claim 20 is cancelled, and no new claims are added; as a result, claims 1-19 and 21 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-15 and 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by McAlear (US 6,389,029).

The distinction between McAlear actually physically having the USB ports being used over a network and the present invention's emulation of the USB ports has been made more clear by amendments made to each pending independent claim, reciting that the host computer is linked to a network connecting it to the remote computerized system via a network adapter comprising a part of the host computer. More specifically, the host computer of the present invention as claimed does not require an actual physical USB port to emulate a remote USB port, and does not require special-purpose external hardware such as attachment unit 154 to couple local physical ports to a network for connection to a remote computerized system.

Because the claims more clearly recite these fundamental differences between the present invention as claimed and the cited McAlear reference, these claims and their dependents are believed to be allowable over the cited art. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 3, 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McAlear (US 6,389,029).

These claims depend from claims believed to be in condition for allowance as described in greater detail above, and so are believed to be allowable for containing the same limitations as their allowable base claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 349-9581 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

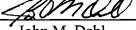
Respectfully submitted,

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By his Representatives,

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Date May 23 06

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 23 day of May, 2006.

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